

A bill to establish an uniform rule of naturalization, and to enable aliens to hold lands under certain restrictions. New York Printed by Francis Childs and John Swaine [1790].

A BILL to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and to enable Aliens to hold Lands under certain Restrictions.

1, *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That an alien, being a free white person, have resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of these States for the term of *two years*, may be admitted to become a citizen thereof, on application to any common law court of record in any one of the States wherein he shall have resided for the term of one year at least, and making proof to the satisfaction of such court, that he is a person of a good moral character, and taking the oath or affirmation prescribed by law to support the Constitution of the United States, which oath or affirmation such court shall administer, and the clerk of such court shall record such application and the proceedings thereon; and thereupon such person shall be considered as a citizen of the United States. And the children of such person so naturalized, dwelling within the United States, being under the age of twenty-one years at the time of such naturalization, shall also be considered as citizens of the United States. And the children of citizens of the United States, that may be born beyond sea, or out of the limits of the United States, shall be considered as natural born citizens, on their coming to reside in the United States.

2, *And be it further enacted*, That any such alien as aforesaid, who shall have resided within the limits and jurisdiction of the United States for the term of three months, and shall make application to any of the courts aforesaid, and also satisfactory proof of a moral character, and take an oath or affirmation that he intends to reside within the United States and to become a citizen thereof, the clerk of such court shall record the same; and such person shall be thenceforth capable to purchase, hold or transfer lands within the United States, so long as he shall reside therein. And after his decease, his wife and children, or other kindred dwelling within the United States, shall have their dower or inheritance respectively, as if he had been a citizen of the United States. But no alien not residing within the United States, nor any other for his use, shall be capable to purchase, take or hold any lands within the United States. *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall affect the title of any land belonging to any alien before the making this act, or the right of any alien to take lands by descent, by virtue of any treaty heretofore made between the United States and any foreign Prince or State. *Provided also*, That nothing herein contained shall affect the internal police or laws of any of the States, now in force, respecting elections or appointments to offices in such States, or

respecting the exclusion or removal of paupers, vagrants, persons of dissolute manners, convicts, persons proscribed, or fugitives from justice.

3, *Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for aliens, being heirs or devisees of citizens of the United States respectively, to hold lands acquired by the demise of such citizens, for the term of years from the time of such demise respectively. And if such aliens shall not within such term become citizens of the United States, or dispose of such lands to citizens of the United States, all such lands shall be forfeited, and become the property of the State wherein such lands shall be, or of the United States, if such lands shall not be within the jurisdiction of any individual State.

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4

Act of Naturalization etc
